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Letter dated 4 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 3 September 2000 from Mr. Humam Abd al-Khaliq Abd al-Ghafur, Minister of Culture and Information and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 24 to 31 August 2000 they carried out 272 sorties, 156 of them from Saudi Arabia, 48 from Kuwait and 68 from Turkey. One civilian was killed and 16 others, including a child, were wounded. Eleven heat flares were also dropped in cultivated areas in northern Iraq.

The Minister urges you to intervene with the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom and with the countries participating in this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to ending their hostility and ensuring respect for the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 272 sorties in the period from 24 to 31 August 2000, 156 of them from Saudi Arabia, 48 from Kuwait and 68 from Turkey, as shown hereunder. One civilian was killed and 16 others, including a child, were wounded in civilian areas in southern Iraq. Eleven heat flares were also dropped in cultivated areas in northern Iraq.

1. In the northern region 68 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1030 hours on 27 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Mosul, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah, Zakho and Irbil areas. These aircraft dropped three heat flares in a cultivated area in the Fayidah district of Dohuk Governorate. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1130 hours on 28 August 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil, Rawanduz, Ayn Zalah and Mosul areas. These aircraft dropped five heat flares in the Jabal Maqlub area. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1445 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1045 hours on 29 August 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Irbil, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah, Dohuk and Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1225 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1035 hours on 31 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Irbil, Zakho, Dohuk, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah and Mosul areas. These aircraft dropped three heat flares in the Jabal Maqlub area. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1300 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 204 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1120 hours on 25 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Basrah, Qal'at Sukkar, Amarah, Hayy, Ashbajah, Shatrah, Rifa'i, Taqtaqanah, Shinafiyah, Najaf, Jalibah, Afak and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1245 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1025 hours on 26 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and Tornado aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 36 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Jalibah and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1140 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1122 hours on 27 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions, 20 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Ashbajah, Lasaf, Taqtaqanah, Basrah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Qal'at Salih, Shatrah, Afak, Ukhaydir, Nukhayb North-East, Qurnah, Amarah, Najaf and Kut South-West areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1300 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0935 hours on 28 August 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Ashbajah, Amarah, Salman and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1040 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1050 hours on 29 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Salman, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Hayy, Ali al-Gharbi, Ukhaydir and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1215 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1005 hours on 30 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 48 missions, 36 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Najaf, Rumaythah, Hayy, Hashimiyah, Hillah, Diwaniyah, Nu'maniyah, Suwayrah and Aziziyah South areas. These aircraft attacked a civilian services-related installation in Nasirah village in Rumaythah district, injuring three civilians including one child, and another such installation in Nasiriyah Governorate, killing one civilian and wounding 13 others. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1105 hours on 31 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 20 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Jalibah, Afak, Basrah, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Taqtaqanah, Shinafiyah, Nukhayb, Ukhaydir, Salman and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1245 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these wanton acts of aggression, urges you to intervene with the governments of the countries in question with a view to ending their hostility and ensuring respect for the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

(*Signed*) Humam Abd al-Khaliq **Abd al-Ghafur**
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq